

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 21-06

RE: C.R. NO. 21-31/EX-AFF

SUBJECT: TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. JOHN FRITZ  
TO SERVE AS THE FSM AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY  
AND PLENIPOTENTIARY TO JAPAN.

JULY 23, 2019

The Honorable Wesley W. Simina  
Speaker, Twenty-First Congress  
Federated States of Micronesia  
Second Special Session, 2019

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Your Committee on External Affairs, to which was referred C.R.  
No. 21-31 entitled:

"A RESOLUTION TO CONFIRM THE NOMINATION OF MR. JOHN  
FRITZ TO SERVE AS THE FSM AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND  
PLENIPOTENTIARY TO JAPAN."

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of this resolution are expressed in its  
title.

Your Committee stresses our country's commitment to its close  
relationship with Japan, and the need to continue to operate its  
overseas diplomatic office with efficiency, integrity and the  
highest levels of expertise regarding the policy issues  
affecting this relationship.

The ambassador, as the face of our country in Japan, plays an  
important role in the high-level policy discussions between our  
countries. Therefore, an extended period of service for a good  
ambassador, one who already has forged strong relationships with  
his Japanese counterparts, and has an in-depth knowledge of the  
relevant policy issues, would be in the best interests of our  
nation. It is therefore strongly recommended that the above-  
named nominee be confirmed as soon as possible to maintain our

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already closed relationship with Japan and further our work on mutually beneficial issues.

Your Committee reviewed the qualifications of this nominee extensively at the time of his initial confirmation as ambassador. There is no further need to hold a further hearing on this matter at this time. The nominee is well known for his efforts to promote the Federated States of Micronesia with the country of Japan, particularly in the areas of tourism and economic development. He is also known for the diligence in assisting our students studying in Japan. Your Committee has not received any subsequent communication that would cast doubt on the performance or integrity of the nominee.

During the recently conducted Fiscal Year 2020 budget hearing for the Department of Foreign Affairs, your Committee had the opportunity to speak with this nominee and key staff that he brought from the mission. At this time, the Committee was very satisfied with nominee's performance and the overall function of our embassy in Japan. Your Committee also defers to the President and the Department of Foreign Affairs as to the decision to maintain the nominee at his post. Absent any contrary indication, your Committee believes that the nominee should be confirmed, and so recommends that Mr. John Fritz be confirmed as the Federated States of Micronesia Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Japan.

Your Committee on External Affairs is in accord with the intent and purpose of C.R. No. 21-31, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto.

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Paliknoa K. Welly  
Paliknoa K. Welly, chairman

/s/ Tiwiter Aritos  
Tiwiter Airtos, vice chairman

/s/ Isaac V. Figir  
Isaac V. Figir, member

Victor V. Gouland, member

/s/ Esmond B. Moses  
Esmond B. Moses, member

/s/ Dion G. Neth  
Dion G. Neth, member

/s/ Robson U. Romolow  
Robson U. Romolow, member